

THE ORIGIN OF POLO.

LORD ROBERTS'S REMINISCENCES OF SIXTY YEARS AGO.

LUNCHEON TO VICTORIOUS TEAM.

Lord Wimborne and the members of the victorious British polo team were entertained by "The Pilgrims" Club at a luncheon at the Savoy Hotel yesterday afternoon. Lord Roberts presided and all the members of the team—Captain Barrett, Captain Cheape, Captain Tomkinson, and Captain Lockett—were present.

The company also included Lord Grenfell, the American Ambassador, Lord C. Beresford, Lord Decies, Lord Fairfax, Sir George Reid, Lord Valentia, Mr. H. J. Tennant, Lieutenant-General Bethune, Mr. John Traill, General Sir Charles Douglas, Major-General Rawlinson, and Mr. Harry Brittain.

LORD ROBERTS, in proposing the toast of "The Successful Team," coupled with the names of Lord Wimborne and Captain Barrett, said they never had a more welcome surprise than when they received the telegram stating that Captain Barrett and his comrades had defeated the formidable American team in the first match, and their anxiety was relieved when that news was followed by the announcement that the British team had been successful in the tremendous struggle of the second match. It was not an easy matter to get up a team for such a stake as the International Polo Cup, and they rejoiced that Lord Wimborne's dogged persistence resulted in the splendid reward he met with. The chivalrous conduct of the American polo authorities in postponing the first match in consequence of Captain Cheape's accident was a generous action which would live long in their memory.

He then proceeded to tell his audience how he first became acquainted with the game, more than half a century ago. "The ancient polo of the East, 'Chogan,'" he said, "was very different from the exciting game we now delight in watching. I first saw it on the borders of Tibet in 1854. It was played in a cramped valley, some 50 yards in length, and about half the width of this room. The teams were mounted on small thick-set ponies that could not go faster than a slow amble; the sticks were heavy, clumsy looking things, and the balls were much larger than those now used. Some years elapsed before polo was taken up in India—not, if I remember aright, until the '60s, and in this country not before late in the '70s. It was brought over here by cavalry officers who had served in India, and, as was to be expected, it soon proved as popular with the civilian as with the soldier."

The taste for polo, he continued, soon spread to America, and in 1886 the late Captain John Watson—a connexion and countryman of his—was invited to take a team across the Atlantic to try conclusions with American players for the Cup. A series of matches had been arranged, but John Watson's team won the first two so easily at Newport that the rest of the tour was abandoned. America challenged for the